

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9 (cancelled).

- 5 10 (new): A method for processing images using a digital camera, comprising:
- capturing n pixels of raw image information, each pixel having m bits of
 intensity information for only one color selected from a group of at least
 three component colors so that the raw image information comprises $n \times m$
 bits;
- 10 processing the raw image information into initial image information based on the
 intensity information of the selected color and not based on the intensity
 information of other component colors, the initial image information
 comprising $n \times m$ bits;
- compressing the $n \times m$ bits of the initial image information into r bits of
- 15 secondary image information, wherein r is less than $n \times m$;
- storing the secondary image information in a frame buffer of at least r bits;
- decompressing the r bits stored in the frame buffer to provide tertiary image
 information; and
- processing the tertiary image information to generate processed image
- 20 information comprising a plurality of pixels, each pixel of the processed
 image information providing intensity information for each color in the
 group of at least three component colors.
- 11 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein the initial image information consists of
- 25 $n \times m$ bits.
- 12 (new): The method of claim 11 wherein the tertiary image information consists of
 $n \times m$ bits.
- 30 13 (new): The method of claim 10 further comprising storing a plurality of lines of the
 tertiary image information and processing at least one block of serialized tertiary
 image information.

14 (new): The method of claim 13 wherein the raw image information is captured using an interlaced sensor system, and storing the plurality of lines of the tertiary image information comprises de-interlacing the tertiary image information.

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15 (new): The method of claim 13 further comprising compressing a block of processed image information to provide compressed image information to a permanent storage system of the digital camera.

10 16 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the block of serialized tertiary image information has corresponding pixel dimensions that are at least as large as pixel dimension requirements of the block of processed image information.

15 17 (new): The method of claim 13 further comprising utilizing a raster-based image compression system for compressing the initial image information to provide compressed image information to a permanent storage system of the digital camera.

20 18 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein compressing the initial image information comprises utilizing a lossless compression algorithm so that the tertiary image information is identical to the initial image information.